CITYNEWS

DECEMBER 2005 FROM THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

GET A LICENCE, REX!

The City of Vancouver is changing the way it issues dog licences. Starting in 2006, dog licence renewals will be staggered according to where you live in the city. Owners will get details with their renewal notices. Those getting a dog licence for the first time can find more information at **vancouveranimalshelter.ca** or by phoning **604.871.6888**.

Licence fees directly benefit the Animal Shelter, which takes in hundreds of dogs a year and finds new homes for many of them. Licences are also the best identification that your dog can have if it gets lost. Please license your dog!

Bylaws pertaining to dog ownership have also been updated. The Animal Control Bylaw was first drafted in the 1950s and there are now more than 50,000 dogs in the city. Bylaw fines have also been increased to reinforce responsible dog ownership behaviour. These changes were adopted to help ensure humane living conditions for dogs; dog owner responsibility and accountability; and control of vicious or unsafe dog behaviour.

For more information: **vancouveranimalshelter.ca**

VANCOUVER HOMEOWNERS

Receive up to $3,500 for home energy improvements.

one day...

onedayathome.ca
makes home energy improvements easy and connects you to all the programs and incentives available.

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL

Sam Sullivan, Mayor

On November 19, voters elected the City of Vancouver's new Mayor and Council. Mayor Sam Sullivan and the ten City Councillors begin their three-year terms on December 5, 2005. To contact your Mayor, call **604.873.7621**. For Councillors, call **604.873.7273**.

E-mail: **mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca**

To find agendas and minutes of Council meetings: **vancouver.ca/councilmeetings**

Suzanne Anton, Councillor

Elizabeth Ball, Councillor

David Cadman, Councillor

Kim Capri, Councillor

George Chow, Councillor

Heather Deal, Councillor

Peter Ladner, Councillor

B.C. Lee, Councillor

Raymond Louie, Councillor

Tim Stevenson, Councillor

GO PLAY!

An important part of healthy living is being active and enjoying some recreation time. The Vancouver Park Board wants to help you find your inner kid through its "Go Play!" campaign. It's fun, affordable and accessible. Go Swim! in one of the Park Board's nine indoor pools. Go Skate! at one of its nine rinks and rediscover the forgotten childhood pleasure of gliding on ice. Go Get Fit! and de-stress at one of 14 Park Board fitness centres. Try a new class such as Aquafit, sign up for skating lessons, or book a session with a fitness instructor to plan a personal workout program.

Check out the flexible options on the Park Board website at **vancouverparks.ca**, where you'll find details on classes, drop-in rates, monthly passes and strip tickets. There's something there for every busy lifestyle, so fit some play time into your week. Watch for the "Go Play!" promotions on bus shelters around the city and in the *Vancouver Courier* for more information and chances to win great recreation prizes. ■

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

It's been a year of moving forward for the City of Vancouver. Several important projects are on their way to becoming reality. All these projects have one main goal– making Vancouver a great place to live, work and visit for everyone.

WOODWARD'S

Woodward's, the flagship building of the Downtown Eastside, continues on its road to revitalization. In 2005, City Council selected the organizations that would operate the 125 units of low-income singles housing (PHS Community Services Society) and the 75 units of housing for low- and modest-income families (Affordable Housing Society). In March, Simon Fraser University announced it would relocate its School for Contemporary Arts to Woodward's. Meanwhile, the developer and architect team refined their ideas for the site, buildings and public areas. Recently, they presented Council their proposals for how the various parts of the Woodward's complex would work together, and also presented the Heritage Commission with their strategy for the heritage conservation of the building, which was unanimously approved. For more information on the project: **vancouver.ca/woodwards**

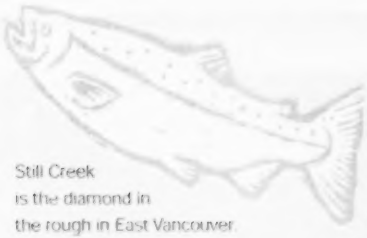
1 KINGSWAY

Construction started in August at 1 Kingsway, a new facility housing the Mount Pleasant Community Centre, the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, a childcare facility, a 10-storey rental-housing tower, and a ground-level café. Council also approved the commission of a public art project for the site. Vancouver artists Fiona Bowie and Rebecca Belmore along with Sidney Fels will create an electronic media artwork project, entitled "Flow", which involves a 24-hour projection of constantly changing images on a large bank of street-level windows. The complex is expected to open in the spring of 2007. For more information: **1kingsway.ca**

GET YOUR YARD OFF DRUGS

Starting on January 1, 2006, the use of outdoor pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on lawns and in gardens of Vancouver homes will be restricted. Certain conditions will need to be met before pesticides may be applied, such as controlling an infestation or destroying a health hazard. However, certain reduced risk products on lawns and in gardens will be allowed.

For more information visit the Grow Natural website at **grownatural.ca** or contact Environmental Health at **604.736.2866** or **604.873.7566**.



REDISCOVERING

Still Creek is the diamond in the rough in East Vancouver. One of two remaining visible streams in urban Vancouver, it runs north from Renfrew Park, through the Grandview Industrial Area, then to Burnaby where it empties into Burnaby Lake. Much of the creek has been covered up through urbanization, but the City and its partners are embarking on a 10-year project to enhance and revitalize it. Some of the sections have created flooding issues, poor water quality, degraded wildlife habitat, and limited recreational opportunities.

The first enhancement project was completed in October, after the City naturalized a 70-metre section at 3003 Grandview Highway by removing concrete banks and invasive blackberry bushes and restoring native plants.

This project transformed the area into an urban oasis with native vegetation to provide bird habitat and cool the waters below. Students from Vancouver Technical Secondary created a public art piece for the

RAV REVS INTO GEAR

The Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV) Rapid Transit Project will move from planning to construction in late 2005. The RAV line will encourage greater transit use, increase transportation choices, and create more routes connecting to downtown and links to the Expo and Millennium SkyTrain lines. In recent City plans and studies, citizens have consistently listed having more public transit options as a priority and RAV will help respond to these needs. The RAV Line is being managed by RAVCO, a subsidiary of TransLink, and built, operated and maintained by InTransitBC, a subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin.

For information about construction schedules,traffic updates, and timelines, visit the RAV project website at **ravprapidtransit.com**. A 24-hour project information line is coming soon.

NEW GRANVILLE STREET

A redesigned Granville Street will be part of the Vancouver landscape by 2008. Granville will remain the hub of local transit service but to balance multiple uses, the street will try to accommodate parking and pedestrian use. When pedestrian use is not heavy, vehicles will be able to access Granville Street.

Other aspects of design being considered include civic plazas, sidewalks, trees and Granville business integration.

The redesign has relied heavily on public input through open houses, consultations and an innovative website that allows the public to rate the three current design options. Council will be asked in early 2006 to approve a conceptual design.

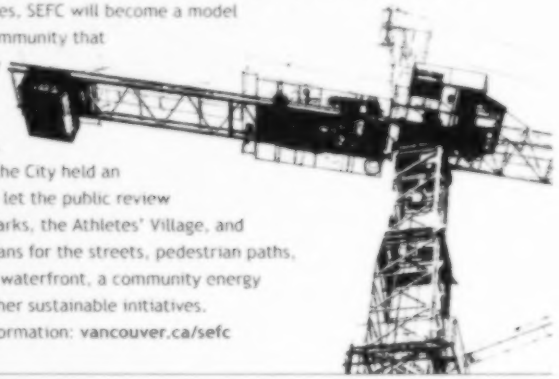
For more information: **vancouver.ca/granvilleredesign**

SOUTHEAST FALSE CREEK

In Feburary 2005, City Council approved the official development plan (ODP) for the area known as Southeast False Creek (SEFC). The ODP sets out a vision for this last parcel of undeveloped waterfront land near downtown Vancouver. The area comprises both City-owned and private lands, and has a rich past.

Many key industries that helped build Vancouver: sawmills, foundries, shipbuilding, metalworking, salt distribution, warehousing, and the City's former public works yard once operated on this site.

Its future will be even grander. A portion of the City-owned lands will be home to the Athletes' Village for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and will house approximately 2,800 athletes and officials. After the Games, SEFC will become a model sustainable community that will eventually be home to up to 14,000 new residents.



In October, the City held an open house to let the public review planning for parks, the Athletes' Village, and preliminary plans for the streets, pedestrian paths, bikeways, the waterfront, a community energy system and other sustainable initiatives.

For more information: **vancouver.ca/sefc**

THE SUSTAINABLE SIX

Six major projects that will promote walking, cycling, transit and other active ways of getting around are on the horizon for Greater Vancouver. TransLink and the Greater Vancouver Regional District, with support from all government levels including the City of Vancouver, and non-government organizations, have launched the five-year, $35-million Sustainable Region Showcase program.

As part of this program, the Main Street redesign is underway and scheduled to be finished by late 2006. Curb extensions on corners will create wider sidewalks for new trees and street art. New transit technologies will prevent the bunching of buses and provide real-time bus arrival information.

The Central Valley Greenway, the proposed backbone of the regional cycling network, will be completed in 2007. This 22-km bicycle and pedestrian pathway links Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster.

"Transit villages" are planned for areas around SkyTrain stations, including Broadway/Commercial, where design and land-use initiatives will encourage more transit, walking and cycling. The TravelSmart program is being piloted in six communities, including Kitsilano, to provide transportation alternatives to reduce vehicle trips.

Two buses with diesel/electric hybrid engines are being tested for performance, environmental impact and community and customer response. The final project is a study that examines ways to improve the efficiency of delivering goods in the region while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.For more information: **translink.bc.ca** ■

OLD TREASURES

area and community volunteers helped out at a planting event in October.

A public viewing platform with interpretative signage has also been installed so visitors can learn more about the Still Creek Enhancement project. Over the next decade, similar projects will be completed to continue to reduce flooding, reconnect people with the creek and its natural beauty, and improve long-standing environmental issues. For more information: **vancouver.ca/stillcreek**

SOUNDSMART

Noise is often an inescapable part of living in a city the size of Vancouver. But, there are ways to make some noisy situations more manageable. The City of Vancouver has created *Soundsmart*, a three part series for residents concerned about noise. The *Soundsmart* brochure is a brief rundown on noise basics. There's also a 20-page comprehensive noise guide that helps you understand noise, and offers do-it-yourself ideas for reducing noise in your home. Both are available for free to Vancouver residents at City Hall. An in-depth 100-page noise control manual is available for $20.

All three *Soundsmart* publications may be downloaded for free online at vancouver.ca/soundsmart

OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN

When the flame goes out on the Torino Games on February 26, 2006, the flag will be handed over to the Mayor of Vancouver, marking the start of Vancouver's road toward being Host City for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

A series of celebration events will be held in February in Vancouver to commemorate the handover and the start of the four-year countdown.

Stay tuned for details by visiting:
vancouver.ca/olympics ■

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The Vancouver Urban Search and Rescue Team completed a successful five-day effort in areas around New Orleans, Louisiana that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in September. The 46-member team, made up of staff from the City of Vancouver's Fire, Police and Engineering departments, and from the B.C. Ambulance Service, deployed on August 31 to Louisiana in the wake of the disaster, returning on September 6. On their first international mission, the team took part in search and rescue operations just outside New Orleans, which resulted in the rescue of 119 people. The team received national and American news coverage for their efforts, and numerous e-mails of thanks, many from U.S. citizens, were received through the City's website. ■

WEB WINNER

The City of Vancouver's website at vancouver.ca is the winner of a World Summit Award for best content in the government category. The site was selected by a grand jury of experts from 35 countries, who evaluated more than 750 sites from 168 countries. Vancouver's site was recognized for the depth and variety of information provided online to the public.

The WSA is a global contest for selecting and promoting the World's best e-content and applications, and is affiliated with the United Nations Summit on the Information Society. For more information on the World Summit Award: **wsis-award.org** ■

world summit Award™
The best in e-Content and Creativity

NEW STREET FURNITURE

New street furniture being added to Vancouver's sidewalks will help keep our city tidier and provide added convenience for citizens. Recycling racks for deposit cans and bottles are being added to the litter containers on streets and installation will be completed by the end of 2005. Newsracks that hold up to six different publications and a newspaper recycling box will be installed at two locations for a trial run in December with possible further expansions in 2006.

Eight public toilets are scheduled to be installed in the summer. Locations have yet to be finalized, but the toilets will be automatically cleaned and sanitized after each use. Along with these new additions, the City has completed the installation of new transit shelters, benches and litter containers, and more bike racks will be installed over the next several years. Some business areas of the City have selected specialty designs and colours to provide a more distinctive look to their area.

GVTV

Tune into Shaw Cable (Channel 4) for *GVTV*, a show featuring stories about the issues, people and places that impact your city.

Wednesdays at 8:30 pm, with repeats on Mondays at 2:30 pm and Wednesdays at 12:30 pm. You can also watch the stories online at **gvtv.ca**

gvtv

MULTILINGUAL PHONE LINES

For more information about the City in these languages:

資料查詢 604.871.6868
ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਵੋ 604.871.6565
Hoi chi tiết 604.871.6969
Obtenga Información 604.871.6464

CITYNEWS is published twice a year with six notices by the City's Communications Division (604.873.7278), to give Vancouver residents an update on the many programs and services provided by the City. These services include: police, fire and rescue, libraries, parks and community centres, planning and land use, theatres, archives, garbage collection and recycling, water and sewer service and transportation.

City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
vancouver.ca

City of Vancouver Mail Stop